

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

It appears that Sinclair's actions may also be contrary to the law. If so, the FCC should take steps to prevent partisan corporate interests to make direct contributions to political campaigns when it would seem that it is against the law to do so. If it turns out that Sinclair's stations wilfully violate the law of the land by pursuing their stated course of political conduct, their future applications to operate over the public airways should be terminated permanently. Thank you.